



16057 Tampa Palms Blvd. W, #373
Tampa, FL 33647

Phone: (954)255-8732
Fax: (954)827-2200
Toll Free: (866)288-RISK

May 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in support of genetic counseling licensure within the state of Michigan. As Executive Director of the advocacy group Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), I recognize the importance of ensuring access to genetic counseling services provided by qualified professionals for individuals at-risk for hereditary conditions. With increasing complexities and technological developments in genetic testing and reproductive medicine, as well as availability of direct-to-consumer genetic testing, the need for consumers to be able to identify appropriately qualified genetic service providers has become critically important. Currently, national board certification for genetic counselors is optional and lack of certification does not limit an individual's ability to provide services in states without licensure or to call the services they are providing "Genetic Counseling" even when they do not meet nationally recognized standard-of-care guidelines. State licensure would provide a formalized regulatory structure for ensuring protection of the public and quality of service, as well as for increasing access to qualified genetic counseling services within Michigan.

State licensure for genetic counselors is important for the following reasons.

1. Provides for protection of the public.

Licensure provides protection to the general public from unqualified individuals providing genetic counseling services. Without licensure, the public is unable to identify unqualified health care professionals and has no recourse if harmed by incorrect information.

2. Ensures minimum qualification standards.

Currently, in states without licensure, genetic counselors do not have specific requirements for certification or continuing education, since American Board of Genetic Counseling certification is optional. State licensure would impose initial and continuing education requirements for genetic counselors practicing in Michigan.

3. Imposes means for professional accountability and recourse.

Licensure requirements provide a mechanism whereby genetic counselors themselves are held accountable for their professional practices and establishes a means for enforcement of a professional code of conduct and quality of service standards.

4. Improves access to genetic counseling services.

In states with genetic counselor licensure, it is easier for the public and other professionals to identify qualified genetic counselors, which has been shown to increase the overall access and utilization of genetic counseling services. Genetic counseling has been documented to improve patient clinical outcomes, psychosocial adjustment and screening behaviors, highlighting the importance of access to these services (*Fam Cancer*. 2006;5(1):61-75; *Genet Test*. 2005 Summer;9(2):167-74; *Soc Sci Med*. 2002;54:1463-70). Recently our organization has seen a worrisome increase in inappropriate testing and misinterpretation of test results in situations where people were not referred to experts.

For the above reasons, our organization supports Michigan state licensure for genetic counselors.

Sincerely Yours,

Sue Friedman, DVM
Executive Director

Beaumont Hospitals

November 20, 2008

Dear Michigan Legislators:

Ananias C. Diokno, M.D.
Executive Vice President
and Chief Medical Officer

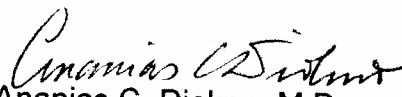
William Beaumont Hospital supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please support legislation that would require genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,


Ananias C. Diokno, M.D.

ACD:dlh

3711 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48073-6769
Office 248.551.9494
adiokno@beaumont.edu



Office of the Dean
M4101 MSI
1301 Catherine Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0624
(734) 763-9600
(734) 763-4936 fax
www.med.umich.edu/medschool/

October 27, 2008

Dear Michigan Legislators:

The University of Michigan Medical School supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. As means towards this end, we support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, Inc (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider supporting legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David A. Spahlinger'.

David A. Spahlinger, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
University of Michigan Medical School

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY | SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Office of the Dean

March 5, 2010

Dear Michigan Legislators:

The Wayne State University School of Medicine strongly endorses House Bill 5684 and Senate Bill 1099, which would mandate licensing of genetic counselors in Michigan. Furthermore, we fully support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, Inc (MAGC) in their efforts to formalize the profession of genetic counseling in this state.

The advancement of genetic research, especially as a result of the human genome project, has raised serious public policy issues. As this science continues to enter the mainstream of medical care, it is critically important to ensure that genetic counseling is of high quality and that it complies with certain ethical standards. The two before mentioned bills would correctly address these issues.

Wayne State University offers a Master's of Science in genetic counseling at the School of Medicine. The graduate program in genetic counseling is designed to integrate scientific knowledge and counseling skills with a variety of clinical, laboratory and supplemental experiences. The program's overall goal is to provide students with an educational environment to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes as outlined in the Practice Based Competencies (PBC) developed by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) to function successfully as productive and responsible genetic counselors in a variety of work settings.

In closing, I strongly encourage you to support HB 5684 and SB 1099. Please let me know if you have any questions about this issue.

Sincerely,



Valerie M. Parisi, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.
Interim Dean



March of Dimes Foundation

Michigan Chapter
27600 Northwestern Highway
Suite 150
Southfield, MI 48034
Telephone (248) 359-1550
Fax (248) 213-4923
MI6304@marchofdimes.com

marchofdimes.com/michigan

Thomas Riopelle
State Director

Chapter Board of Directors

Lance N. Krajacic
Chapter Chair

Michael D. Fezzey
Sr. Vice Chair

David R. Kistler
Vice Chair

Anthony J. Viviano
Vice Chair

James R. Goldworthy
Secretary

John R. Bebes
Treasurer

Thomas H. Landry
East Region
Advisory Council Member

Linda Connor, BSN, RN
State PSC Co-Chair

Sarah Collica
MYC Chair

John Domagala
Vol. Development Chair

Elliot Forsyth
Ann Arbor Division Chair

Jennifer Gaston
Traverse City Division Chair

Sandy Geller, MSN, RNC
State PSC Co-Chair

Lori Jandron
Lansing Division Chair

Sandra J. Lewis, B.A., MA
State Public Affairs Chair

Mike Mraz
Grand Rapids Division Chair

Thomas Szczepanski
Metro Detroit Division Chair

Bruce Thomson
Member-at-Large

April 15, 2010

**Michigan Legislature
95th Legislature Regular Session
State Capitol**

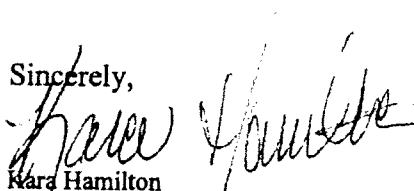
Dear Michigan Legislators:

Please accept this letter of support for genetic counseling licensure in Michigan; HB 5684 and SB 1099. The March of Dimes advocates ensuring access to certified testing and treatment for genetic conditions.

Rapid changes in scientific knowledge improve the chances for birth of a healthy baby and also create an ongoing need for information about childbearing. Individuals have different risks for having a baby born with an inherited disorder, birth defect, or other abnormal pregnancy outcome. Prospective parents who have unanswered questions about diseases and traits in their families, or about possible environmental or behavioral risk factors, or certain complications of pregnancy, are advised to take advantage of genetic counseling. For example, couples who have recurring miscarriages should be offered genetic testing to learn whether either of them has certain genetic risk factors for miscarriages.

The March of Dimes pioneered genetic services, including counseling and testing of individuals at risk, led early efforts to provide screening of populations at risk, and continues today to work at the Federal and State levels to expand access to newborn screening, referral and treatment. The Foundation has also been actively involved in both professional and public education about genetics, including development of genetic counselor training programs and school curricula. The March of Dimes is currently engaged in educational outreach programs to increase "genetic literacy" among both the general public and the professional community. The Foundation's Pregnancy and Newborn Health Education Center provides information to consumers and professionals. Foundation advocacy supports policies to increase genetic research and support services for families including genetic counseling.

Sincerely,


Kara Hamilton
State Director of Program Services and Public Affairs
Michigan Chapter
March of Dimes

march  of dimes®



August 19, 2008

Dear Legislator:

LAURA DANZ, MD
DON GOOD, MD
REBECCA HAGERTY, DO
TIMOTHY MADION, MD
DOUGLAS MCKAY, MD
MARGY VERPLANCK-KANTZ, DO
JENNIE WENTZLOFF, MD
MARY DOUGLAS, PA-C
KATHRYN ROSE WHEND

The Michigan Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy P. Madion, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., M.B.A.
ACOG Representative to the Michigan State Medical Society

231.392.0650 PH
231.392.0665 FAX
1200 SIXTH ST, SUITE 400
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

March 14, 2007

VCFS Support Group of Michigan
200 Woodslee Drive
Troy, MI

The VCFS Support Group of Michigan supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means toward this end.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer Lewandowski
VCFS Support Group of Michigan

April 4, 2007



national society
of genetic
counselors, inc.



the leading voice, authority and advocate for the genetic counseling profession

Executive Office
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611 USA
Phone: 312/321-6834
FAX: 312/673-6972
E-mail: fyi@nsgc.org
Web site: www.nsgc.org

Dear Member of the Michigan Legislature:

On behalf of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), I am writing to support state licensure of genetic counselors in Michigan. We urge the Michigan legislature to quickly enact this important legislation.

NSGC is the leading voice, authority and advocate for the genetic counseling profession. We strongly believe licensure for genetic counselors is needed in all 50 states to ensure the public receives the delivery of safe and effective genetic counseling services.

As you know, genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized graduate degrees and experience in the areas of medical genetics and counseling. Genetic counselors work with other members of the health care team in a variety of clinical settings such as hospitals, medical practices, universities, health maintenance organizations, and private practices. They provide information and support to individuals and families concerned with genetic disorders or birth defects and to people who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. Genetic counselors procure and interpret family and medical histories to identify individuals and families at risk. They also explain inheritance and natural histories, quantify chances for occurrence and recurrence, review available testing options, and discuss management, prevention, and research treatment protocols with patients.

There are potential harms to the public resulting from this occupation remaining unregulated. Unqualified providers may request unnecessary testing or incorrect tests. Studies have shown that approximately 30% of non-genetics health care providers misinterpreted the results of genetic tests that they ordered on their patients. Physicians have been demonstrated to underestimate patients' genetic risks because of ineffective family history evaluation and fewer than half of them have taken continuing education courses in genetics. Licensing genetic counselors will ensure patients receive counseling from those of us specifically trained to deliver these services within the health care team.

Washington, DC Office
2025 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036 USA

The Michigan draft legislation establishes requirements for the licensure of genetic counselors ensuring minimum standards for individuals in terms of academic achievement, clinical experience, and skills necessary to deliver high quality genetic counseling services. Currently in Michigan there is no legal standard for who can represent themselves as genetic counselors. As the field of medical genetics grows, there is and will continue to be a need to provide the citizens of Michigan with accurate information regarding their genetic risks and results of genetic tests. At present, there is no mechanism that assures citizens that the individual who is providing this information is qualified to do so.

Additionally, there is no legal requirement that employers hire individuals who have the appropriate training and education to provide genetic counseling services or that would prohibit unskilled individuals from using the title of genetic counselor. The draft bill would give the public a mechanism to identify qualified providers of genetic counseling services. NSGC supports the draft Michigan legislation as it reflects our guiding principles. NSGC retains our right to withdraw support if the bill deviates from our principles through the legislative process. Please feel free to contact me or our Director of Government Relations, John Richardson, if you have any questions or if NSGC can be of assistance in any manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Keiles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Keiles" clearly distinguishable.

Steven Keiles, MS, CGC
NSGC President

**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Molecular Medicine
and Genetics**

CLINICAL GENETICS SERVICES

**MEDICAL GENETICS EDUCATION
& TRAINING PROGRAMS**

GERALD L. FELDMAN, MD, PhD, FACMG
PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR, CLINICAL GENETICS SERVICES
DIRECTOR, MEDICAL GENETICS
RESIDENCY PROGRAM
GFELDMAN@GENETICS.WAYNE.EDU

LAURA S. MARTIN, MD, FAAP, FACMG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, GENETIC COUNSELING
GRADUATE PROGRAM
LMARTIN@MED.WAYNE.EDU

ANNE GREB, MS, CGC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
CO-DIRECTOR, GENETIC COUNSELING
GRADUATE PROGRAM
AGREB@GENETICS.WAYNE.EDU

ANGELA TREPANIER, MS, CGC
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
CO-DIRECTOR, GENETIC COUNSELING
GRADUATE PROGRAM
ATREPAN@GENETICS.WAYNE.EDU

PHONE: (313) 577-6298
FAX: (313) 577-9137

August 20, 2008

Representative Marie Donigan
503 Poplar Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Dear Ms. Donigan:

As the co-director of the genetic counseling graduate program at Wayne State University and also the current president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), I would like to voice my support and the support of the NSGC for efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. I strongly support the efforts of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors, an NSGC state chapter, to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means toward this end. The demand for quality genetic counseling services provided by knowledgeable practitioners is increasing. Patients and referring physicians need to know how to distinguish those with the training and credentials to provide accurate genetic risk assessment and counseling from those without the needed skills or knowledge. Licensure would be beneficial in this respect and is very important in this era of direct to consumer marketing of genetic tests, some of which have no clinical utility despite claims to the contrary.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. If you have any questions or I can provide you with any specific information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Angela Trepanier, MS, CGC
Co-Director, Genetic Counseling Graduate Program
Wayne State University School of Medicine

2008 President, National Society of Genetic Counselors





West
Michigan
Obstetricians &

Gynecologists P.C. December 16, 2008

Michigan Legislators
c/o Cheryl Harper, MS, CGC

David A. Kreuze, M.D.
Stephen F. Rechner, M.D.
Darla M. Olson, M.D.
Andrew J. Van Slooten, M.D.
Renee J. Elderkin, M.D.
Russel D. Jelsema, M.D.
Susan L. VandenBosch, M.D.
Jeffrey J. Dood, M.D.
Susan K. Hicks, D.O.
Melinda E. Johnson, M.D.
Jane K. Cottingham, D.O.
F. A. Rohn, M.D.
Michael S. Werkema, M.D.
Cathe E. Reigle, NP-C
Lani S. Cantu, NP-C

221 Michigan St. NE
Suite 600
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2540
(616) 774-7035
(616) 774-4057 Fax
(800) 901-8423

Dear Michigan Legislators:

I, Dr. Russel Jelsema, support efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

Russel Jelsema, M.D.
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist
West Michigan Ob/Gyn



Spectrum Health

Genetic Services

25 Michigan Street NE Suite 2000 Grand Rapids MI 49503
616 391 2700 fax 391 3114 spectrum-health.org

December 11, 2008

Michigan Legislators
c/o Cheryl Harper, MS, CGC

Dear Michigan Legislators:

I, Dr. Helga Toriello, support efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

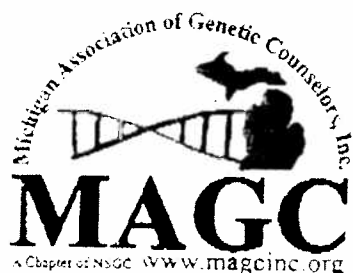
The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

Helga Toriello, PhD
Director, Clinical Genetics
Spectrum Health



9-25-08

Division of Pediatric Neurology at Children's Hospital of Michigan

supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

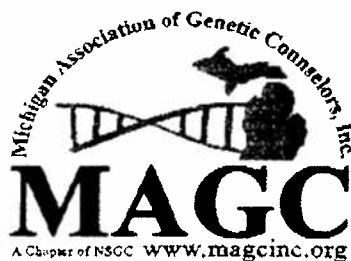
The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Sincerely yours,

Mahbubul Huq

(AHM Mahbubul Huq, MD, PhD, FRCPC)
Associate professor and pediatric Neurologist
Division of Pediatric Neurology
Children's Hospital of Michigan
Department of Pediatrics and Neurology
Wayne State University



September 22, 2008

Michael S. Simon, MD, MPH
Karmanos Cancer Center
4100 John R. 4HWCRC
Detroit, MI 48201

I, **Michael S. Simon, MD, MPH**, support efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Simon, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine
Director Cancer Genetic Counseling Service



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL GENETICS
Henry Ford Hospital & Medical Centers

September 15, 2008

Barry Wolf, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair

**Comprehensive
Genetics Clinic**
Medical Genetics
Prenatal Genetics
Neurogenetics
Cancer Genetics
(313) 916-3188 Phone
(313) 916-1730 Fax

**MSAFP Screening
Program**
(313) 916-3190 Phone
(313) 916-2076 Fax

Henry Ford Health System
3031 West Grand Boulevard
New Center One-Fifth Floor
Detroit, MI 48202-2689

**Cytogenetics
Laboratory**
(313) 916-3178 Phone
(313) 916-9476 Fax

**DNA Diagnostic
Laboratory**
(313) 916-7681 Phone
(313) 916-9476 Fax

Henry Ford Health System
2799 West Grand Boulevard
Clara Ford Pavilion - 4th Floor
Detroit, MI 48202-2689

Department of Medical Genetics
Henry Ford Hospital
3031 West Grand Blvd. Suite 700
Detroit, MI 43202

The Department of Medical Genetics at Henry Ford Hospital and I, personally, supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, such as genetic counseling services, in Michigan. To this goal, we support the efforts of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan.

The field of medical genetics has and will continue to experience tremendous growth. Genetic information and testing is impacting all areas of medicine. In so doing, it is even more imperative to provide quality genetic counseling services to consumers in order for them to make more informed healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and the results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are health care professionals with Master's degrees, with the special background and training to provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are totally or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper and appropriate information and care. Currently in Michigan, there are no legal specifications for who can use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important and essential mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can readily and appropriately identify qualified providers.

Please consider enthusiastically supporting legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely,

Barry Wolf

Barry Wolf, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Medical Genetics
Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit, MI 48202



Oakwood Hospital
& Medical Center

18101 Oakwood Blvd
PO Box 2500
Dearborn, Michigan
48123-2500

313.593.7000



Oakwood

August 18, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. Specifically, I write to support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Masters-prepared health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

Julie Zenger Hain, Ph.D., FACMG
Director, Clinical Cytogenetics
Oakwood Healthcare System
313.593.8483



William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak

David J. Aughton, MD, FAAP, FACMG
Chief, Division of Genetics
Department of Pediatrics

medical office building
3535 west thirteen mile road, suite 707
royal oak, michigan 48073
telephone: 248 551-0487
telefacsimile: 248 551-5998
e-mail: daughton@beaumont.edu

20 August 2008

The Honorable Marie Donigan
Michigan House of Representatives
N0790 House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Ms. Donigan:

As a clinical geneticist, I support efforts that will improve access to quality health care services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. I am therefore writing to express my support of the efforts of the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as a means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years, and has affected virtually all areas of medicine. The providing of quality genetic counseling services has become correspondingly of continuously increasing importance, since patients are increasingly making health care decisions based upon genetic risk factors and upon the results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's-level health care professionals who provide patients with information, education, counseling, advocacy, and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials, thereby assuring that patients receive proper information and care. At present, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of "genetic counselor". Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please permit me to note that I am writing as a private citizen, and that I am not writing as a representative of William Beaumont Hospital.

I would be grateful for your joining me in supporting MAGC's efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan. Thank you for your consideration of my position.

Sincerely yours,



David J. Aughton, MD

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
3750 Woodward Ave.
Suite 200-A
Detroit, MI 48201
Telephone: (313) 993-4673
Facsimile: (313) 993-4517
<http://www.trainatwayne.com>

Theodore B. Jones, M.D.
Interim Chairman
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

August 18, 2008

Representative Marie Donigan
N0790 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Donigan,

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wayne State University School of Medicine supports efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests.

Genetic counselors are Master's trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore B. Jones, MD
Associate Professor and Interim Chair
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Director, Divisions of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Genetics
Wayne State University/Hutzel Women's Hospital

**Children's Hospital
of Michigan**

DETROIT MEDICAL CENTER / WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

August 22, 2008

Children's Hospital of Michigan
Division of Genetic and Metabolic Disorders
Department of Pediatrics
3901 Beaubien Blvd
Detroit, MI 42801

3901 Beaubien
Detroit, MI 48201-2119

As division chief I would like to speak for my entire division to say that we wholeheartedly support efforts that will improve access to quality healthcare services, including genetic counseling services, in Michigan. We support the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors (MAGC) efforts to secure licensure for genetic counselors in Michigan as means towards this end.

The field of medical genetics has experienced tremendous growth in recent years that has impacted virtually all areas of medicine. Correspondingly, the importance of providing quality genetic counseling services is evermore important since consumers are increasingly making healthcare decisions based upon genetic risk factors and results of a variety of genetic tests. Many of the non-geneticist physicians are out of date on their genetics training and it is much more efficient and provides better patient care to have support from a genetic counselor rather than trying to retrain all the doctors.

Genetic counselors are Master's degree trained health care professionals who provide consumers with information, education, counseling, advocacy and emotional support for medical conditions that are either entirely or partially determined by genetic factors. Licensure for genetic counselors is critical to ensure that providers of genetic counseling services have appropriate training and credentials so that individuals receive proper information and care. Currently, there is no legal specification in Michigan for who may use the title of genetic counselor. Licensure for genetic counselors is an important mechanism by which consumers of genetic counseling services can identify appropriately qualified providers.

Please consider championing legislation for genetic counselor licensure.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Stockton, MD
Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics
Chief, Division of Metabolic and Genetic Disorders

We treat your children like our own.



www.chmkids.org